

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A personal care absorbent article having a spliced absorbent material, the article comprising:

a fluid permeable body side liner for placement adjacent a wearer; and

an absorbent core attached to the body side liner for absorbing fluid passing through the liner, said absorbent core including:

a first portion of absorbent material;

a second portion of absorbent material; and

a piece of splicing material directly attached to said first and second portions of absorbent material, said splicing material having a fluid permeability at least about 25% as great as a fluid permeability of said first portion of absorbent material and at least about 25% as great as said second portion of absorbent material.

2. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein said splicing material has a fluid permeability at least about as great as a fluid permeability of said first portion of absorbent material and at least about as great as said second portion of absorbent material.

3. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 2 wherein said article is a feminine hygiene product.

4. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 2 wherein said article is a diaper or training pants for a child.

5. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 2 wherein said article is an incontinence product for an adult.

6. (Previously presented) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 2 wherein said first portion comprises a leading end and a trailing end and said second portion comprises a leading end and a trailing end, and wherein said piece of splicing material is thermally bonded to said trailing end of said first portion and to said leading end of said second portion.

7. (Currently amended) A personal care absorbent article as ~~said~~ set forth in claim 6 wherein said piece of splicing material comprises a carded web of bicomponent fibers.

8. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first and second portions of absorbent material each include fibers having polyolefin content.

9. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein said piece of splicing material is thermally bonding to said first and second portions of absorbent material.

10. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein said splicing material is a carded web comprising bicomponent fibers.

11. (Previously presented) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first portion comprises a leading end and a trailing end and said second portion comprises a leading end and a trailing end, and wherein the trailing end of said first portion is arranged squarely end-to-end adjacent the leading end of said second portion.

12. (Previously presented) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first portion comprises a leading end and a trailing end and said second portion comprises a leading end and a trailing end, and wherein said trailing end of said first portion overlaps the leading end of said second portion.

13. (Previously presented) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first portion comprises a leading end and a trailing end and said second portion comprises a leading end and a trailing end, and wherein each of said ends of the first and second portions of absorbent material has a first major surface and an opposite second major surface, and wherein the piece of splicing material comprises is attached to at least one of said first and second major surfaces of each of said ends.

14. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 13 wherein the first surface of the trailing end of the first portion and the first surface of the leading end of

the second portion are oriented in an identical direction, and wherein said piece of splicing material is attached to the first surface of the trailing end of the first portion and to the first surface of the leading end of the second portion.

15. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 14 wherein said piece of splicing material is a first piece of splicing material attached to said first surface of the trailing end of the first portion and to said first surface of the leading end of the second portion, further comprising a second piece of splicing material attached to the second surface of the trailing end of the first portion and to the second surface of the leading end of the second portion.

16. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 13 wherein the first surface of the trailing end of the first portion and the first surface of the leading end of the second portion are oriented in an identical direction, and wherein said piece of splicing material is attached to the first surface of the end of the first portion and to the second surface of the end of the second portion.

17. (Original) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 13 wherein the piece of splicing material is wrapped around both of said surfaces of each of said ends.

18. (New) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein said piece of splicing material includes fibers having polyolefin content.

19. (New) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 18 wherein said piece of splicing material is a nonwoven.

20. (New) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first portion of the absorbent material is spaced from the second portion of the absorbent material to define a gap therebetween.

21. (New) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 2 wherein said splicing material has a fluid permeability greater than the fluid permeability of said first portion of absorbent material and said second portion of absorbent material.

22. (New) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 16 wherein said splicing material has a generally Z-shape.

23. (New) A personal care absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first portion has a trailing end and the second portion has a leading end adjacent to and aligned with the trailing end of the first portion thereby defining an aligned junction of the first and second portions having a length extending generally transverse of the first and second portions, the piece of splicing material being attached to both of the trailing end of the first portion and to the leading end of the second portion of absorbent material such that the splicing material extends continuously over a majority of the length of the aligned junction.